By Agent, Official Says

Oswald FBI Note Destroyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) apparently was aware that Lee Harvey Oswald left a threatening note at the agency's Dallas office shortly before President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, a deputy associate FBI director said Tuesday.

The note has been destroyed and the official, James R. Adams said FBI employees presented conflicting information about the note's contents and its destruction.

THE NOTE'S existence was not revealed until last July.

Adams said former assistant FBI Director William C. Sullivan, reported learning of the note at the time of the assassination investigation from the agent who was directing the FBI office in Dallas.

But that agent, now retired, has denied any knowledge of the note, its destruction, or a visit by Oswald to the agency's office at which time the message was left, Adams said.

Adams testified under oath before the House Judiciary subcommittee on constitutional and civil rights.

He also said:

- He had no knowledge that Oswald, who the Warren Commission said acted alone in killing Kennedy, or Jack Ruby, Oswald's assassin, were paid informants of the FBI or any other government agency.
- The only motive found for destruction of the note was a desire by the agent who received it to avoid embarrassing the bureau or himself.
- The Department of Justice decided the statute of limitations prohibited it from prosecuting any FBI employee for possible destruction or withholding of evidence. However, he said that conflicting reports the employees gave during interviews conceivably could lead to perjury charges and that FBI agents in Washington and Dallas have been disciplined in connection with their handling of assassination evidence.

He said destruction of the note violated FBI rules.